

ON A SUPPOSED NEW SPECIES AND SOME VARIETIES OF *GOURA*.

BY ERNST HARTERT.

A CURIOUSLY coloured and somewhat small *Goura* was found among a lot of Arfak trade-skins. Both Mr. Rothschild and I were inclined to think that it was merely an extraordinary variety of *Goura coronata* Linn. Some of our friends, however, were of opinion that we had got a good new species, and Messrs. R. Bowdler Sharpe and Ogilvie Grant of the British Museum, when asked for their opinion, said that they could not regard the specimen as an abnormal variety, but rather believed it to be an undescribed species. I, therefore, think it best to describe the bird in question as follows:—

1. *Goura cinerea* sp. nov.

General colour above and below cinereous, darker and almost slate-grey on the rump and upper tail-coverts, lighter and more like "pearl-grey" (Ridgw., *Nomencl. Col.*, Pl. ii., fig. 20) on the crest, which has the same form as that of *G. coronata*. Lores and a broad ring round the eye of short soft black feathers. A band across the back, formed of the tips of the feathers, which have slate-grey bases, and tips of the upper wing-coverts of a tint between tawny ochraceous and ochraceous rufous of Ridgway (*Nomencl. Col.*, Pl. v., figs. 4 and 5), and entirely different from the deep chestnut of the same parts in *G. coronata*, which, even when bleached, could hardly become anything like this colour. Greater upper wing-coverts and secondary quills whitish grey, darker at base. Primaries slate-colour, paler along the shaft. Rectrices slaty grey, lighter cinereous close to the shaft, and with a broad cinereous band at the tip. Under wing- and tail-coverts slaty grey. Bill and feet in skin of a light yellowish or brownish colour. Bill, 4.5 cm.; wing, 34 cm. (= 13.4 inches); tail, 25 cm.; tarsus, 9 cm.; middle toe with claw, 7 cm.

Hab. Dutch New Guinea, Arfak Region.

The reason why we were at first so very doubtful as to the specific value of this bird, and which makes us still hesitate, though it was desirable to describe it in any case, is the existence of some obvious varieties in the Tring Museum, which show that variation not seldom occurs in *G. coronata*.

One of them is entirely like typical specimens, but the primaries, the series of the greater wing-coverts, some of the smaller wing-coverts, most of the under wing-coverts, and a few feathers on the belly are *snow-white*.

The other, most interesting specimen, is above and below bluish cinereous, much like *G. cinerea*, but somewhat more bluish, and the longest upper tail-coverts have kept their usual colour. The wings and the tail are of a curious delicate lavender-buff colour; the crest is very pale, say cinereous buff; the ring of short feathers round

the eye pale brown instead of black; feet pale brown. The band across the back and the tips of the wing-coverts are of the same deep chestnut as usual in *G. coronata*.

2. *Goura beccarii* Salvad.

We have specimens of this rare *Goura* from Humboldt Bay, where it was originally described from, as well as from Konstantinhafen, German New Guinea. They are quite similar to each other, or at least the two specimens from Konstantinhafen, collected by J. Kubary, have only a triflingly longer crest, but they do not yet show the characters peculiar, according to Dr. A. B. Meyer, to his *Goura beccarii huonensis*, from the Huon Gulf, still further eastwards. (Cf. *Orn. Monatsber.*, vol. i., pp. 65-67.)

NOTES ON HUMMING BIRDS.

By ERNST HARTERT.

1. *Selasphorus flammula* Salvin.

AMONG a number of birds collected in Costa Rica by Mr. C. F. Underwood, the Tring Museum received a fine series of that rare humming bird *Selasphorus flammula* Salvin. The type of this species is the only example of it in the British Museum. It is, unfortunately, an *immature male*, and Mr. Salvin, who compared one of our birds with his type, agrees with me on this point. The immaturity of the specimen caused not only an incomplete description, but also the placing of the species in a wrong section of the genus in the key to the species in *Cat. B.*, xvi., p. 392, and in the *Biologia Centrali Americana* (*Aves*, vol. ii., p. 357), as the adult *male* has distinctly elongated lateral gular feathers, and in Mr. Salvin's key to the species of *Selasphorus* it would best be placed behind or before *S. torridus*, with which species it agrees very much, except in the entirely different colour of the throat and the length of wing.

A description of the *male* and *female* appeared in the same year as vol. xvi. of the *Catalogue of Birds*, in 1892, in Boucard's *Genera of Humming Birds*, a work which appears together with Boucard's *Humming Bird*, and of which, until now, 250 pages, treating of 354 species, are published; but that description is also rather short and not very detailed, so that a description from my series may not be unnecessary.

ADULT MALE (Faldas de Irazu, January, in perfect plumage).—Above dark bronzy green. Uppermost chin, lores, and a line of feathers under the eye cinnamon-rufous. Ear-coverts mixed deep blackish brown and rufous. Throat of a very peculiar kind of dark raspberry-red, with a singular dull metallic gloss. Lateral gular feathers broadly elongated over the white sides of the neck. All gular feathers blackish at base, and with a rufous band between the base and the large glossy tip. Feathers of the breast and sides of neck white, blackish at base. Feathers of sides of breast and flanks